



Mountain West States: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

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BOUNDARY CHANGES

For more information, see:

- a. Wikipedia, 'Territorial evolution of the United States'
- b. Map of US, www.mapofus.org

MIGRATION

1. Gold, Silver, etc. Rushes
 - a. Arizona – starting in 1770s but mostly from 1850s, Globe, Pinal, McMillenville
 - b. Colorado – starting in 1850s, Pike's Peak, Cripple Creek
 - c. Idaho – starting about 1860s, Coeur d'Alene
 - d. Montana – starting about 1860s in the western part, especially near Butte
 - e. Nevada – starting about 1850s, Comstock, El Dorado, Austin, Eureka, Pioche
 - f. New Mexico – starting about 1860s, Magdalena, Silver City, Lake Valley
 - g. Utah – starting about 1860s, Part City, Bingham Canyon
 - h. Wyoming – starting in 1840s, Black Hills
2. Migration routes, see FamilySearch Wiki for each state
 - a. Rivers, including the Platte, Colorado, Snake, Green, and Rio Grande
 - b. Trails, including the Santa Fe, Oregon, California, and Mormon
 - c. Railroads, including the Central Pacific; Union Pacific; Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe
3. Finding places, past and present
 - a. USGS, <http://geonames.usgs.gov>
 - b. Google Maps, www.google.com/maps
 - c. Omni Gazetteer, 11 vols., FHL books 973 E5o
 - d. Town/county/state gazetteers

GOVERNMENT BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

1. Marriages were usually kept by counties as soon as the county was created.
2. Births and deaths were usually not kept until the states began recording them.
3. For each state, check the FamilySearch Wiki for information about state records.
 - a. Arizona - birth and death records began 1909
 - b. Colorado - birth and death records began 1907
 - c. Idaho - birth and death records began 1911
 - d. Montana - birth and death records began 1907; many began 1895
 - e. Nevada - birth and death records began 1911
 - f. New Mexico - birth and death records began 1920
 - g. Utah - birth and death records began 1905
 - h. Wyoming - birth and death records began 1909

4. Check the following Wiki pages, putting the name of a state in the blank space. Has links to records on Ancestry, FamilySearch, other sites, and addresses of where to write to obtain certificates.
 - a. How to Find _____ Birth Records
 - b. How to Find _____ Marriage Records
 - c. How to Find _____ Death Records

CHURCH RECORDS

1. Church records are the major records for births (baptisms) and deaths (burials) before states started keeping these types of records. They are also another source for marriage records.
2. Information in these records varies a lot depending on the record keeper and the denomination. Some have a great deal of information.
3. In FamilySearch Catalog, **Place Search**, check **Church Records** under 1st the town, 2nd the county.
4. The church Wiki page for each state shows predominant churches before 1900, including how to contact them.
 - a. Arizona – Catholic, Mormon, and Presbyterian
 - b. Colorado – Baptist, Catholic, Mormon, Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian
 - c. Idaho – Catholic, Methodist, Mormon, Presbyterian, and Quaker
 - d. Montana – Catholic, Methodist, Episcopal, and Presbyterian
 - e. Nevada – Catholic, Methodist, Mormon, and Protestant Episcopal
 - f. New Mexico – Catholic, Baptist, Methodist Episcopal, Mormon, and Presbyterian
 - g. Utah – Mormon, Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Methodist, and Presbyterian
 - h. Wyoming – Catholic, Methodist Episcopal, Mormon, and Protestant Episcopal

CENSUS

1. Indian Censuses (see below under Native Races)
2. State and Territorial Censuses
3. For each state, check the FamilySearch Wiki

VOTING RECORDS

1. County recorders kept voting registers
2. Sometimes called Great Registers
3. Registers include residence, naturalization, and place of origin

LAND RECORDS

1. Spanish and Mexican land grants; private land claims.
2. All states in this region are public land states.
3. Person to person, deeds, were recorded by each county.
 - a. Need to know the existing county where a person bought or sold land.
 - b. Some on film, some online, some paper.
4. Government to person, homesteads, bounty land, etc. recorded by the federal land office.
 - a. General Land Office Records, www.glorerecords.blm.gov
5. In the FamilySearch Catalog, use **Place Search** to find the appropriate county, then check **Land and Property Records**.

NATIVE AMERICANS

1. The FamilySearch Wiki explains many types of Native American Records and how to find them.

2. The Bureau of Indian Affairs kept censuses, births, marriages, deaths, enrollments, allotments, and family registers.
3. In FamilySearch Catalog, search for the state then **Minorities** and **Native Races**.
4. Ancestry has Indian censuses, 1885-1940.

MILITARY

1. Indian Wars, 1798-1914
2. Mexican War, 1846-1848
3. Civil War, 1861-1865

MAJOR INTERNET SITES WITH RECORDS

1. Ancestry.com
2. FamilySearch.org
3. Findmypast.com
4. Fold3.com
5. MyHeritage.com

REGIONAL AND STATE INTERNET SITES

1. Region
 - a. Mountain West Digital Library, <http://mwdl.org>
 - b. Western States Marriage Index, <http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernstates/search.cfm>
 - c. Rocky Mountain Online Archive, CO, NM, WY, <http://rmoa.unm.edu/browse.php>
2. Arizona
 - a. AZ Department of Health Services, births and deaths, <http://genealogy.az.gov>
 - b. Arizona Gravestones, <http://arizonagravestones.org>
 - c. Arizona, Douglas, Arrival Manifests, 1906-1955, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2299376>
 - d. Arizona Memory Project, <http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/cdm>
3. Colorado
 - a. Colorado State Archives, Archives Search, Historical Records Index, <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/archives/archives-search>
 - b. Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org
 - c. Denver Public Library, Digital Collections, <http://digital.denverlibrary.org/cdm>
4. Idaho
 - a. Idaho State Historical Society, <https://history.idaho.gov/searchable-indexes>
 - i. Reconstructed 1890 Idaho Census
 - ii. Inmate catalog, 1864-1947
5. Montana
 - a. Montana State Genealogical Society, <http://montanamsgs.org/onlineadata.html>
 - b. Montana Historical Society, <https://mhs.mt.gov/research/online>
 - c. Montana State Library, <https://archive.org/details/MontanaStateLibrary>
6. Nevada
 - a. Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records, Digital Collections, www.nsladigitalcollections.org

- b. Carson City Recorder-Genealogy, <http://carson.org/government/departments-a-f/clerk-recorder/recorders-office/genealogy>
- c. Nevada, Orphan's Home Records, 1870-1920, www.ancestry.com (\$)
7. New Mexico
 - a. New Mexico Digital Collections, <http://econtent.unm.edu>
 - b. New Mexico Genealogical Society, <https://www.nmgs.org>
 - c. Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico, http://www.hgrc-nm.org/gnmpd_portal.html
 - d. New Mexico State Archives Catalog, www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/archives/nm-archives-heritage-search, some digitized
8. Utah
 - a. Utah Death Certificate Index, 1905-1965, www.archives.utah.gov/research/indexes/20842.htm
 - b. Utah Cemeteries and Burial Database, <https://heritage.utah.gov/history/cemeteries>
 - c. Utah Digital Newspapers, <http://digitalnewspapers.org>
 - d. Utah State Archives Name Indexes, <http://archives.utah.gov/research/indexes>
 - e. Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, <https://history.lds.org/overlandtravels>
 - f. Mormon Migration, <https://mormonmigration.lib.byu.edu>
 - g. Early Church Information File, 1830-1900, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2078505>
9. Wyoming
 - a. Wyoming State Archives, Death Certificates, <http://wyoarchives.state.wy.us/index.php/find-it-in-the-archives/death-certificate-database>
 - b. Wyoming Newspapers, <http://newspapers.wyo.gov>

OTHER USEFUL INTERNET SITES

- German Roots, www.germanroots.com points to online genealogical sites
- Cyndi's List, www.cyndislist.com points to online genealogical sites
- Find A Grave, www.findagrave.com for search form, click 1st option under Find Graves
- Digital State Archives, www.digitalstatearchives.com
- USGenWeb, <http://usgenweb.org>, check Projects, <http://usgenweb.org/about/projects.html>
- Chronicling America, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>, newspapers 1836-1922
- Old Maps Online, www.oldmapsonline.org

NOT ON THE INTERNET, NOW WHAT?

1. FamilySearch Catalog
2. Wikis – FamilySearch, Ancestry, etc.
3. County courthouses
4. Churches
5. State libraries and archives
6. Societies – Historical and genealogical

#USGenealogy
 #FamilyHistoryLibrary
 #FHLUSSeminar

